

IN THE DRAWINGS:

In a Submission of Replacement Drawings filed concurrently herewith, Applicants respectfully request to amend Figure 9 to remove reference characters θ , R, and Z. Moreover, Applicants respectfully request the addition of Figures 10 and 11 to include every feature of the invention specified in the claims. No new matter is added with the addition of Figures 10 and 11.

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

The drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: θ , R, and Z (Figure 9).

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11, 14, 15 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Hayashi et al. (WO 03/059631 A1).

Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al. in view of Lüdi et al. (US Pat. No. 6,220,686 B1).

Claims 14, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruyama (US Pat. No. 6,804,477 B2) in view of Hayashi et al.

Claims 14, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muramatsu (JP 2000-259044 A) in view of Hayashi et al.

Claims 4 and 8-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 14, amended dependent claims 7 and 9, and cancelled claim 8. Applicants have also amended the specification in accordance with the comments of the Office Action. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9-20 are presently pending.

In addition, Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Submission of Replacement Drawings.

The Objection to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: θ , R, and Z (Figure 9). Moreover, the drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Applicants submit new drawings in accordance with the comments of the Office Action. Furthermore, Applicants amend the specification to reflect the addition of Figures 10 and 11. No new matter is added with the addition of Figures 10 and 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, and 11-20

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11, 14, 15 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Hayashi et al. (WO 03/059631 A1). Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al. in view of Lüdi et al. (US Pat. No. 6,220,686 B1). Claims 14, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruyama (US Pat. No. 6,804,477 B2) in view of Hayashi et al. Claims 14, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muramatsu (JP 2000-259044 A) in view of Hayashi et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants amend independent claims 1 and 14 to include the allowable feature of dependent claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 1 and 14, as amended, are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) should be withdrawn because Hayashi et al. fails to teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1 and 14, as amended. As pointed out in MPEP § 2131, “[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim.” Thus, “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).” Similarly, as pointed out in MPEP § 2143.03, “[t]o establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 409 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).” Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2-7, 9-13 and 15-20 are allowable at least because of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 14, as amended, and the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

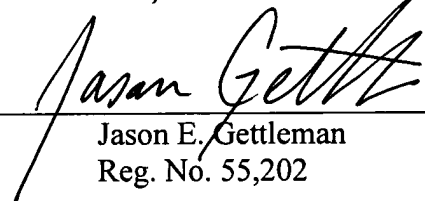
The foregoing amendments are being made to place the application in condition for allowance. A favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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